This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An interference pigment having a mass tone, which comprises a flake-form substrate with successive coatings of:

(A) a colorless coating having a refractive index of $n > 1.8$ in a layer thickness of 20 – 250 nm,

(B) a colorless coating having a refractive index of $n \leq 1.8$ in a layer thickness of 10 – 100 nm,

(C) a colorless coating having a refractive index of $n > 1.8$ in a layer thickness of 20 – 250 nm,

(D) an absorbent layer having a layer thickness of 1 – 100 nm, which comprises at least one: ~~metal oxide, metal sulfide,~~ metal telluride, ~~metal selenide,~~ metal lanthanide, metal phosphate, metal actinide, titanium oxynitride or titanium nitride, or a mixture of two or more of the above,

and, optionally,

(E) an outer protective layer.

2. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the flake-form substrate is natural or synthetic mica, glass flake, Al_2O_3 flake, SiO_2 flake or TiO_2 flake, or a mixture thereof.

3. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (A) consists of TiO_2, ZrO_2, ZnO or BiOCl.

4. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 2, wherein coating (A) consists of TiO_2, ZrO_2, ZnO or BiOCl.

5. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (B) consists of SiO_2, MgF_2, B_2O_3, AlO(OH), $MgSiO_3$ or Al_2O_3, or mixtures thereof.

6. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 2, wherein coating (B) consists of SiO_2, MgF_2, B_2O_3, AlO(OH), $MgSiO_3$ or Al_2O_3, or mixtures thereof.

7. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 3, wherein coating (B) consists of SiO_2, MgF_2, B_2O_3, AlO(OH), $MgSiO_3$ or Al_2O_3, or mixtures thereof.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Currently Amended)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent layer (D) consists of ~~Fe_2O_3, Fe_3O_4, Cr_2O_3, Ce_2O_3, a molybdenum oxide, CoO, Co_3O_4, VO_2, V_2O_3, NiO, V_2O_5, CuO, Cu_2O, Ag_2O, CeO_2, MnO_2, Mn_2O_3, Mn_2O_5, MoS_2, WS_2,~~ a titanium oxynitride, titanium nitride or any combination of the above.

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) have the same composition.

14. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 3, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) have the same composition.

15. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 13, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) consist of TiO_2.

16. **(Original)** A process for producing an interference pigment according to

claim 1, which comprises coating the flake-form substrate by a wet-chemical method of hydrolytic decomposition of metal salts in aqueous medium or by a CVD or PVD process.

17. (Original) A paint, coating, printing ink, plastic, ceramic, glass, cosmetic, or laser markable composition comprising a pigment of claim 1.

18. (Currently Amended) A pigment composition comprising one or more binders and one or more interference pigments according to claim 1.

19. (Original) A dry preparation comprising an interference pigment according to claim 1.

20. (Original) A dry preparation of claim 19, in the form of pellets, granules, chips or briquettes.

21. (Previously presented) An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the flake-form substrate is a mixture of different substrate materials or a mixture of identical substrate materials with different particle sizes.

22. (New) An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent layer (D) has a layer thickness of 1 to 50 nm.

23. (New) An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent layer (D) has a layer thickness of 5 to 20 nm.